

XXXII.—*On two new Rodents from Van, Kurdistan.*

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

THE British Museum owes to Major W. H. Williams, recently H.M. Consul at Van, Kurdistan, Eastern Asia Minor, a collection of small mammals made in the neighbourhood of that place. Besides many other specimens of interest to mammalogists, there are examples of the two following new species:—

Ellobius lutescens, sp. n.

Size medium. Fur long and loose, not so close or sleek as in the other species. General colour dull slaty buff, quite different from the bright yellowish of the Eastern species, with which it agrees in tooth-structure, and more similar to dark examples of *E. talpinus* from the Volga. Head but little darker than body. Belly scarcely lighter than back, the line of demarcation quite gradual. Everywhere, above and below, the hairs are dark slaty grey with buffy tips.

Skull with a long slender muzzle. Nasals long and very narrow, much compressed for their posterior two thirds. Zygomata boldly expanded, starting out anteriorly at a right angle to the general line of the skull. Lambdoid crest curving forwards mesially, not forming an angle in the middle line. Posterior palate much as in *E. fuscocapillus*, but inner part of bullæ rising much higher above the level of the basioccipital and basisphenoid than in that species.

Teeth apparently as in *E. fuscocapillus*, the complicated shape of the last upper molar quite as in that species*, and perfectly similar in all the six specimens obtained by Major Williams.

Dimensions of the type, an adult female, measured in flesh by collector:—

Head and body 125 millim.; tail 14; hind foot 22.

Skull: basal length 31; basilar length 28; greatest breadth 24; nasals 10×3.4 ; palate, length from henselion 18.7; diastema 12; length of upper molar series 7.2.

Hab. Van, alt. 5000 feet.

Type. B.M. no. 97.6.4.17. Collected April 12, 1897.

This *Ellobius* is very distinct from any previously described. From the group containing *E. talpinus*, *Tancrei*, and *rufescens* (stated by Büchner to be all identical), it differs by the structure of its last upper molars, which are as in *E. fuscocapillus*. From the latter again, as from the

* Figured by Blanford, J. A. S. B. l. pt. 2, pl. ii. (1881).

closely allied *E. intermedius*, it may be distinguished by its smaller size, loose fur, and dull coloration.

Allactaga Williamsi, sp. n.

Intermediate in size between the large *A. alactaga*, Oliv.*, and the much smaller *A. euphratica*, *acontion*, and *indica*. General colour coarsely mixed yellowish buff and black. Face more finely grizzled buff; a spot above the eye posteriorly and a large patch on the cheek below the eye white. The latter patch is succeeded behind by the clear yellowish buff of the sides of the neck and upper part of the shoulder. Flanks bordering the white belly also more or less buffy, interrupted behind by the usual white hip-stripe. Below the latter the outer sides of the thighs and legs to the ankles are bright rich salmon-buff (almost orange-buff of Ridgway); upper surface of hands and feet white. Ears of medium length, their hairs rich buff, but as these are only present in any number along the anterior third of the outer surface and along the extreme edge of the inner surface, the rest of the ear appears dull brown (which may or may not be flesh-coloured in life). Tail for the greater part of its length bright buffy, whiter below. Distally, as the hairs lengthen they become blackish, at least above, and form a black subterminal band from one to two inches in length, succeeded by a pure white tip supported on the terminal half-inch of the tail-vertebræ.

Skull strong and stoutly built, forming a large edition of that of *A. acontion*, quite different from the long-muzzled skull of *A. mongolica*, Radde (incl. *A. annulata*, M.-Edw.). Upper premolar only about a quarter the size of m^3 , which in its turn is about one-third the size of m^2 .

Dimensions of the type, an adult male, taken by the collector in the flesh:—

Head and body 141 millim.; tail 203; hind foot 65; ear 46.

Skull: basilar length 27.2; greatest breadth 23.8; nasals

* *Dipus alactaga*, Oliv. Bull. Soc. Philom. ii. p. 121 (1800). The proper name of this species is somewhat doubtful. Büchner calls it *A. saliens*; but this is based on Gmelin's *Cuniculus pumilio saliens*, which was not given binomially at all, and has therefore no status in nomenclature. By Blandford and myself it has been called *A. decumana*, Licht., but the name used above has a priority of 25 years over that given by Lichtenstein. The words *major*, *media*, *minor*, *pygmæa*, and *minuta*, occurring *passim* in Pallas's account of his *Mus jaculus* (Glires, p. 275 *et seqq.*), are, in a book written throughout in Latin, apparently used as descriptive words, and are clearly not given as names, for which they cannot therefore be used.

13 × 4·8; interorbital breadth 9; breadth of brain-case 18; palate, length from hensenion 18·3; diastema 10·5; palatal foramina 6·5 × 3·3; combined length of upper molars, excluding premolar, 5·7.

Hab. Van, alt. 5000 feet.

Type. B.M. no. 97.6.4.18. Collected May 28, 1896.

This beautifully-marked Jerboa, which I have named in honour of its collector and donor, Major Williams, is readily distinguished from all previously described species merely by its general proportions, as its hind feet, while far shorter than those of *A. alactaga*, considerably surpass those of the other species above mentioned. Probably it is really most nearly allied to *A. euphratica*, but its longer hind feet will readily distinguish it. In colour it is one of the most beautiful of the family, owing to the brightness and intensity of the buff stripe which runs down the hind legs.

In Satunin's admirable paper on Caucasian mammals* there are mentioned under *Alactaga acontion*, besides the normal N.-Caucasian form, examples from Transcaucasia which are stated to show "bedeutende Abweichungen" from the typical form. In all probability these examples belong to *A. Williamsi*.

XXXIII.—On new Species of Forficularia.

By MALCOLM BURR, F.Z.S.

THE following new species and varieties are, with one exception, described from specimens taken by Herr Frühstorfer in the Celebes, Java, and Lombok, and I have great pleasure in dedicating one species to this ardent collector. The collection also included two other species of *Spongophora* and one new *Chatospania*, which I have refrained from describing, as I possess only females, and those not in good condition.

The collection made by Herr Frühstorfer is of great interest as including species from several localities, which I hope to work out more fully at a later date.

I take this opportunity of thanking my learned colleague M. de Bormans, to whom I am indebted for his invaluable assistance in determining many of the species and fixing the novelties.

* Zool. Jahrb. ix. p. 308 (1896).